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Exploration and Discovery.

THE CHRONOLOGY OF OLD TESTAMENT LITERATURE.

In the new German translation of the Old Testament, modeled after the New Testament of Weizsäcker, and prepared by eleven leading specialists, and edited by Professor Kautzsch, of Halle, there are a number of valuable appendices which, like the translation itself, represent the best critical results of modern scholarship. Among these is one entitled *Entstehung der israelitischen Litteraturdenkmäler*, in which the chronological order of the various writings and sources now found united in the Old Testament books is given. It is an historical scheme of Old Testament literature largely after the manner of Cornill in his *Einleitung*, and published in the *Student* soon after the publication of the first edition of that book. The present scheme furnishes such an excellent bird's-eye view of the historical unfolding and growth of Israel's literature according to the teachings of currently accepted criticism, that a reproduction of the list is exceedingly instructive and by no means a work of supererogation. It is as follows:

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| About 1250 B.C. | Judges 5, the so-called Song of Deborah.
The fable of Jotham, Judges 9:7 <i>sq.</i> |
| About 1005 B.C. | David's lament at the death of Jonathan, 2 Sam. 1:17 <i>sq.</i> |
| About 1000 B.C. | David's lament at the death of Abner, 2 Sam. 3:33 <i>sq.</i>
The Parable of Nathan, 2 Sam. 12:1-4. |
| About 970 B.C. | Solomon's dedication of the temple, 1 Kings 8:12 <i>sq.</i>
The blessing of Jacob, Gen. 49:1-27; the Book of the wars of Jehovah (Num. 21:14); the Book of the Just (Joshua 10:12 <i>sq.</i> ; 2 Sam. 1:18); the speeches of Balaam, Num. 23 <i>sq.</i> |
| B.C. 933-912. | The (Ephraimitic) hero narratives (H' and H) in the Book of Judges, remnants of old heroic narratives, in two strata, an older and a younger. |
| B.C. 912-911. | The Jerusalem narratives of David's life (Je), 2 Sam. 5-7; 9-20, an old history of David written probably in Jerusalem, at any rate in Judah.
The narratives of David (Da) in 1 Sam. 16:14 <i>sq.</i> , to 1 Kings 2, also a Judaic history of David.
The narratives of Saul (S) in 1 Sam. 9 <i>sq.</i> , an old Judaic or Benjaminitic history of Saul. |

- B.C. 883-877. The Book of the Covenant, Ex. 21-23 (*cf.* 24:7); possibly a remnant also in 2 Chron. 17:9, in that case, B.C. 873-849.
- B.C. 853-842. The Jahwistic document in the Pentateuch and Joshua (J); the Ephraimitic narratives (E) in 1 Sam. 4 to 6.
- B.C. 814-798. The (Ephraimitic) Blessing of Moses, Deut. 33.
- B.C. 798-743. Ephraimitic history of Elijah (P) in 1 Kings 17-19; 21; Ephraimitic narratives (E) in 1 Kings 20; 22; 2 Kings 3 (?); 6-10; Ephraimitic prophetic narratives concerning Elisha (P²) in 2 Kings 2; 4-6; 8; 13.
- B.C. 779-740. Isaiah 15; 16.
Amos.
The Elohist document (E) in the Hexateuch.
The Ephraimitic histories of Samuel and Saul (SS) in 1 Sam. 8 *sq.*
- B.C. 743. Hosea, son of Beeri (chap. 1-3 according to 1:4 in the time of Jeroboam II., chap. 4-14, in the time of Menahem).
- B.C. 743-737. Beginning of Isaiah's activity, Isaiah 2-5; 6; 17: 1-11.
? Union of the heroic narratives and the histories of the so-called lesser judges (ri) into a pre-Deuteronomic Book of the Judges.
- B.C. 735. Isaiah 1 (?); 7-9:6; 11: 1-9.
- B.C. 734. Isaiah 9:7 *sq.*
- B.C. 725 ? Micah 1-3.
- B.C. 722. Isaiah 14:24 *sq.*; 17:12 *sq.*; 28: 1-6.
Isaiah 19 (?).
- B.C. 714 ? (704 ?) Isaiah 10:28 *sq.*; 20.
- B.C. 705. Isaiah 14:29 *sq.*; 18 (?); 28-30.
- B.C. 701. Isaiah 31; 37:22 *sq.*; 1 (?); 22 (?).
- B.C. 689-643. Micah 6: 1-7:6.
Nahum (?).
Union of J and E in the Hexateuch to JE.
- B.C. 640. Zephaniah 1.
- B.C. 628. Call of the prophet Jeremiah (Jer. 1).
Sermons from the time of Josiah (2-6).
The primitive Deuteronomy.
- B.C. 623-610. Habakkuk.
Zephaniah 2-3:13.

- B.C. 608-597. Jeremiah's sermons in 7-20 (nearly all), 21:11, *sq.*; 23:9 *sq.* (?); 25 [26]; 45-49 (?).
- B.C. 605. Jer. 11-13:27.
First edition of the prophecies of Jeremiah written by Baruch, afterwards burned by Jehoiakim, and then restored and enlarged by Jeremiah (Jer. 36).
- B.C. 602. First redaction of the books of the Kings (by Dt).
Jer. 14:1-17:18; 35.
- B.C. 597. Jer. 22:20 *sq.*
- B.C. 597-586. Jer. 23:1-8; 24; [28; 29]; 27; 30 and 31 (?).
- B.C. 593. Consecration of Ezekiel.
- B.C. 588. [Jer. 21:1-10; 34:8 *sq.*]
[Jer. 32:1-34:7.]
- B.C. 586. [Jer. 37-43:7.]
[Jer. 43:8-44:30.]
- B.C. 573. Completion of the Book of Ezekiel (with the exception of 29:17 *sq.*, appended in 571).
The Lamentations.
Union of the prophecies of Jeremiah with the history of the prophet, (passages given in [] above) into the Book of Jeremiah (by Baruch?).
- B.C. 561. Origin of the present Book of Deuteronomy, by the Deuteronomistic redaction (Dt), probably contemporaneous with the union of JE (in the Hexateuch) with D, as also the Deuteronomistic editing of the Book of Judges (Ri) and of the books of Samuel (Dt) and of Kings (Dt²) into one large historical work.
Kernel of the "Law of Holiness" in Lev. 17-26.
- B.C. 550. (?) Isaiah 40-62.
Isaiah 21:1-10 (?); 13:1-14:23; 34; 35.
- B.C. 538-521. Isaiah 63-66.
Zeph. 3:14 *sq.*
- B.C. 520. Haggai (Sept. to Dec. 520).
Zechariah 1:1 *sq.* (520); 1:7-6:15 (519); 7-8 (518).
- B.C. 500. Composition of the proper Priest Codex (P) in Babylon.
- B.C. 500 to 459. Malachi.
Partial union of the Priest Codex with the Law of Holiness.

- B.C. 458 to 446. The Aramaic source of Ezra (Q^a), Ezra 4-6.
Ruth.
- B.C. 444-431. Oldest collection of hymns for temple services, Ps. 3-41.
Ezra's memoirs (E) in Ezra and Nehemiah.
- B.C. 432-333. Obadiah (?), on the basis of an older oracle [vs. 1-9].
Memoirs of Nehemiah (N) in the Book of Nehemiah.
- About 400 B.C. Completion of the Pentateuch by a union of JE, D, P.
Final edition of the Book of Proverbs.
Joel (?).
Jonah (?).
At the end of the Persian period, the collection of 2d
and 3d books of the Psalms.
- B.C. 332-321. Job (?).
Song of Songs (?).
Isaiah 24-27 (?).
Various additions to the older prophets.
- B.C. 311. Psalms of the Grecian period.
- B.C. 301. The historical work of the Chronicler (Ezra, Nehemiah,
Chronicles).
Zechariah 9-14 (?).
- B.C. 264-248. Ecclesiastes (?).
- B.C. 248. Translation of the Pentateuch into Greek; about the
middle of this century the conclusion of the second or
prophetic part of the Canon (nebiim).
- B.C. 180. Composition of Jesus Sirach in Hebrew.
- B.C. 164. The Book of Daniel (probably Jan. 164, or late in 165).
- B.C. 153-146. Esther (?).
- B.C. 141. Compilation of the 4th and 5th Books of the Psalms and
completion of the Psalter.
- B.C. 135-105. ? The Book of Judith; about 130, translation of Sirach
into Greek.
- B.C. 90. 1 Book of the Maccabees; and the "Wisdom of Solo-
mon" toward the end of the century.

G. H. S.